United Nations S/2014/569

Security Council

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Letter dated 5 August 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that Mr. William J. Newcomb (United States of America), whom I appointed on 4 April 2014 to serve as finance expert on the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1874 (2009) (see S/2014/248), withdrew from the Panel on 30 June 2014.

Accordingly, in consultation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), I have appointed Ms. Stephanie Kleine-Ahlbrandt (United States of America) to serve as finance expert on the Panel.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

14-58810 (E) 060814

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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 33
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Letter dated 4 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I attach herewith the statement of Edward Nalbandian, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, on recent Azerbaijani provocations (see annex).

I request that you kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-58813 (E) 110814

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Annex to the letter dated 4 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of Edward Nalbandian, Foreign Minister of Armenia, on recent Azerbaijani provocations

2 August 2014

We strongly condemn the provocative actions of recent days on the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan and on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which resulted in the loss of many lives and sharply raised the tension.

Baku continues to grossly violate the ceasefire agreements of May 1994 and February 1995, ignore the calls of the Heads of the Co-Chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group to refrain from provocative actions and from the escalation of the situation, and the appeals of the international community that through the use of force the conflict can not be resolved, and that only through negotiations can stability and peace be achieved. The recurrent adventurism of Baku pursues an aim to undermine the negotiation process.

Being the initiator and instigator of the provocations, Azerbaijan is trying to put responsibility for them on the other side. However, it is obvious that by rejecting the proposals of the international community on the establishment of a mechanism of investigation of incidents, Azerbaijan is assuming the whole responsibility for the ceasefire violations.

It is high time for the international community to sober up the Azerbaijani leadership, which has lost the sense of reality and is going against the value system of the international community.

Together with the Co-Chair countries Armenia will take the necessary steps for halting the provocative acts, for the stabilization of the situation, and for continuation of the negotiation process aimed at the settlement of the conflict exclusively through peaceful means.

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Security Council

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6 August 2014

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Letter dated 5 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, as President of the Security Council for the month of August, the United Kingdom has scheduled a briefing on 19 August to mark World Humanitarian Day. The briefing will focus on the protection of humanitarian workers, under the agenda item on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

In order to help steer the discussion on the subject, the United Kingdom has prepared a concept note (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mark **Lyall Grant**

14-58683 (E) 110814

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Annex to the letter dated 5 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note: Security Council open briefing on World Humanitarian Day, 19 August 2014

Introduction

On 19 August 2014 (World Humanitarian Day), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as President of the Security Council, will hold an open meeting of the Council, in briefing format, on the protection of humanitarian workers, under the agenda item on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

Context

World Humanitarian Day is dedicated to the efforts of humanitarian workers around the world, including those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. It commemorates the 2003 attack on the United Nations compound in Baghdad, when 22 United Nations staff were killed, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Iraq and former Emergency Relief Coordinator and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Despite the efforts of humanitarian workers to reach and bring lifesaving assistance to people in need, attacks on personnel (including murders, kidnappings and arrests) and humanitarian assets (including humanitarian supplies, facilities and vehicles) in situations of armed conflict have increased, in particular in countries on the Security Council agenda (Afghanistan, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic have the highest rates of attacks on humanitarian workers).

In the decade since the 2003 attack in Baghdad, aid worker casualties have tripled, reaching over 100 deaths per year.[a] The bombing of the United Nations compound in Mogadishu and the attack against the International Organization for Migration in Afghanistan in 2013 are just two recent examples of attacks on United Nations staff that have had a direct impact on the ability of humanitarian workers to conduct effective operations and reach people in need.

The aim of the briefing is to bring international attention to this critical issue, consider the reasons for the increase in attacks, with a particular focus on countries on the Security Council agenda, and assess the tools at the disposal of the Council to ensure greater respect for international humanitarian law and accountability for those who perpetrate attacks against aid workers. The briefing follows the format of the previous debate on a similar issue, held under the Presidency of Argentina on 19 August 2013.

The briefing could be an opportunity to assess the scope for developing a Security Council product building on resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003 on the protection of humanitarian workers.

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[a] Humanitarian Outcomes, Aid Worker Security Database (https://aidworkersecurity.org).

Role of the Security Council

The Security Council frequently discusses humanitarian issues in countries affected by conflict. This briefing is an opportunity to focus on the protection of humanitarian workers in such conflict situations.

The Security Council engages in the issue of the protection of humanitarian workers, in both its country-specific and thematic work. In its 2013 presidential statement on the protection of civilians (S/PRST/2013/2), the Council condemned all acts of violence and other forms of intimidation deliberately directed at humanitarian personnel. Council resolutions on Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen have also addressed a similar set of humanitarian issues (see enclosure for examples).

It is essential that the Security Council consider the protection of humanitarian workers and their assets in a holistic way, including in accordance with the objectives set out below.

Objectives of the briefing

The briefing aims to tackle the following issues:

- The linkages between and the respective roles of humanitarian actors in conflict-affected States and the role of the Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the impact on humanitarian operations of an absence of peace and security.
- The role of Council mandates and peacekeeping operations in supporting the protection of humanitarian workers and creating safe conditions in which they can operate.
- The impact of violence against humanitarian workers and their assets on humanitarian operations, including with regard to access, and on affected people.
- The role of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the additional protocols of 1977, as well as customary international humanitarian law, and the importance of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in ensuring acceptance for humanitarian action and the security of humanitarian workers.
- The need for accountability for attacks against humanitarian workers, considering the tools at the disposal of the United Nations and the Council to ensure accountability, including support for national authorities in conducting investigations and prosecutions, the use of commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions and, in some circumstances, sanctions.
- The impact of the proliferation of non-State actors on humanitarian operating environments.

Enclosure

Proposed briefers

- Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross
- Masood Karokhail, Director of The Liaison Office

Precedents

- The impact of insecurity on humanitarian operations, including with regard to access: in its resolution 2100 (2013) on Mali, the Security Council expressed concern over the insecurity which hinders humanitarian access, exacerbated by the presence of armed groups and terrorist and criminal networks.
- Freedom of movement of humanitarian workers: in its resolution 2061 (2012) on Iraq, the Security Council urged all those concerned to promote the safety, security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel.
- Creating the conditions for humanitarian workers to operate: in its resolution 2100 (2013) on Mali, the Security Council set out the role of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali in contributing to the creation of a secure environment for the safe, civilian-led delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Background material

- Security Council resolutions: specifically, resolution 1502 (2003), but also both country-specific and thematic resolutions.
- Reports of the Secretary-General: on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel (A/68/489), on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (e.g., S/2013/689) and relevant reports on Security Council mandates (e.g., the report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2014/140)).
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "To stay and deliver: good practice for humanitarians in complex security environments" (2011). This report sets out the increasingly difficult operating environment for humanitarian workers, recommendations on policy responses and references to relevant legal documents.
- International Committee of the Red Cross, "Health care in danger: making the case" (2011). This report contains data on violence against health-care workers, facilities and beneficiaries in 16 countries, including in countries on the Security Council agenda (Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya and Somalia).
- Humanitarian Outcomes, Aid Worker Security Database. This database makes it possible to collect information and provide analysis on violence against humanitarian workers around the world. The 2014 report of Humanitarian Outcomes is due to be published shortly before the briefing on 19 August 2014.

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Security Council

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6 August 2014

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Letter dated 5 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, as President of the Security Council for the month of August, the United Kingdom has scheduled an open debate on 21 August on conflict prevention, under the item "Maintenance of international peace and security".

In order to help steer the discussion on the subject, the United Kingdom has prepared the attached concept note (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and the concept note attached could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mark **Lyall Grant**

14-58644 (E) 120814

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Annex to the letter dated 5 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note: Security Council open debate on conflict prevention, 21 August 2014

Introduction

On 21 August, the United Kingdom, as President of the Security Council, will hold an open debate on the topic of conflict prevention under the item "Maintenance of international peace and security".

With the numerous tragic and pressing conflicts that persist in the world today, it is more important than ever that the Security Council shifts from a culture of reaction to one of prevention. During this debate we invite views on how the Council can improve its record in fully understanding early warning signs of conflict and responding through early action.

Background

The United Nations was founded to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, owing to the untold sorrow the two World Wars brought to mankind.[1] Under the Charter the Security Council was given the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and specific tools to help prevent conflict. The Council's record in rising to those responsibilities is mixed and some key tools remain underutilized.

The nature of conflict has changed dramatically over the past 100 years; this poses an even greater challenge to the United Nations and the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security. Conflict today is less often inter-State, and more predominantly intra-State, asymmetric and multilayered. It is driven by a wide range of factors, for which there are often clear indicators. Analysis of these indicators can inform us of the likelihood of armed conflict breaking out.

It is difficult to think of a situation in which we were not aware of warning signs on the horizon. When the Tunisian street vendor Tarek al-Tayeb Mohamed Bouazizi set himself on fire in 2010, no one foresaw this as a catalyst for the Arab Spring. Yet the Arab Human Development Report, published just five years before, had set out the indicators and warning signs. We knew the situation would flare if no preventive action were taken, we just did not know when and we did not appreciate the scale.

Similar warning signs have been visible elsewhere, as a prelude to conflict in other regions. A key challenge for the Council in responding to such warnings has been finding consensus on the balance between, on the one hand, a response that is sufficiently early to prevent international peace and security crises and, on the other, respecting the prerogative of national authorities to resolve internal crises. The many crises facing the Council today show that the balance has not been found. The

[1] Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations.

solution may lie in making better use of the tools provided by the Charter and the capacities of the United Nations system.

The Security Council's preventive role

The Council's preventive role is set out in Article 1 of the Charter and Chapter VI sets out a variety of tools at the Council's disposal which it may use or call upon parties to use: negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement and the involvement of regional organizations. Some of these tools are rarely used. This represents a missed opportunity to detect the indicators of conflict as they arise. The Council should serve as a smoke detector, not just a fire extinguisher.

While Council-mandated special political missions and peacekeeping missions are often deployed once conflict has already broken out, they are also valuable conflict prevention tools, given the cyclical nature of conflict and the high risk of recurrence.

- *What has prevented the Council from using the full variety of tools contained in Chapter VI? How can we be more active in considering the best tool for the type of conflict that may be brewing?*
- *Does the Council have the right mechanisms for receiving and understanding information to allow it to act?*

The Secretary-General, his Special Envoys and Special Representatives

As recognized in resolution 1366 (2001), the Secretary-General has an important role to play, including through his good offices function. United Nations interdisciplinary fact-finding and confidence-building missions to regions of tension are also valuable.

The Secretary-General's Special Envoys and Special Representatives also have a critical role to play in conflict prevention and resolution. Security Council missions to areas of potential or existing conflict can play an important preventive and resolution role and have not been used to full effect. Since the presidential statement of 30 November 1999, the Council has not driven forward the idea of "preventive missions".

- *How could the Council better support the Secretary-General and his representatives in these endeavours? Are there key examples of situations where quiet diplomacy has been complemented by Security Council consideration and action?*
- *Should the Council revive the idea of "preventive missions" and take a more innovative approach to conflict prevention using such tools?*

United Nations regional offices

The regional offices of the United Nations in West Africa, Central Africa and Central Asia (UNOWA, UNOCA and UNRCCA) serve as forward platforms for good offices and preventive diplomacy, working with regional and subregional groups. They provide cost-effective supplementary mechanisms and channels for early warning, convening and mediation.

The offices have had some success in taking early action to reduce growing tensions and in seeking to reduce ongoing conflicts. For example, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia provided good offices and support for crisis response in Kyrgyzstan following the outbreak of inter-ethnic violence in 2010.

- *What are the key successes of these offices and what factors have facilitated such success? Can the Council do more to support them or complement their activities?*

The need for a United Nations system-wide and flexible approach

Many United Nations actors have a role to play in conflict prevention. A number of different prevention and early warning mechanisms exist across the United Nations system, with offices which support these functions: the joint Office of the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect, the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict.

It is essential that these mandates and offices function in a coherent manner and do not provide conflicting or different analyses of a situation. The report of the Secretary-General's Internal Review Panel on United Nations Action in Sri Lanka provided a very useful analysis of the damaging consequences when the United Nations system and its engagement with Member States does not function holistically and with the appropriate attention to the prevention of serious violations.

The Council and the United Nations system should also recall that women serve as critical agents in developing long-term strategies for conflict prevention and the promotion of peace at local and national levels. But women often remain excluded from decision-making related to conflict prevention: they must be empowered to participate fully. Early warning and response mechanisms must also be gender sensitive in design and implementation.

- *How can the Council and others best ensure that the United Nations adopts a system-wide approach to early warning, early action and conflict prevention?*
- *How can the Council ensure that it receives the right information, early on, from the United Nations system?*

Briefers and product

The Secretary-General is expected to brief the Council, alongside the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay. Our intention is that a resolution will be adopted at this debate.